

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9 and 11 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 5 and 9 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced.

Applicants submit that neither Ohkoshi et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,015,411) ("Ohkoshi") nor McGuire et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,352,538) ("McGuire"), considered alone or in combination, discloses, teaches or suggest all limitations of claims 1-3, 5-7, 9 and 11.

Ohkoshi does not disclose all limitations of amended independent claims 1, 5 and 9. Ohkoshi does not disclose "inserting the distal end of the guide pin through a cannulation in a cutter," much less "pulling the cutter into the knee using a strand introduced through the cannulated guide pin and attached to the cutter, to secure the cutter to the distal end of the guide pin," as claim 1 recites. Ohkoshi teaches the formation of a tibial tunnel and of a femoral tunnel by using drill 3 having blades 31a and 31b "formed on only the rear end surface thereof" (col. 6, ll. 29-30), and not the limitations of the claimed invention. Ohkoshi is also silent about a cannulated guide pin, or about a strand introduced through the cannulated guide pin and attached to the cutter, as in the claimed invention.

McGuire fails to rectify the deficiencies of Ohkoshi. McGuire teaches a device for proper positioning and insertion of a guide pin, and not a cannulated guide pin, much less a cannulated guide pin with a strand introduced therethrough, the strand being used to pull a retrograde cutter into the knee.

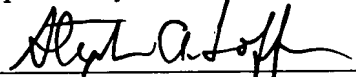
In the Advisory Action dated November 24, 2006, the Examiner asserts that "[I]t is brought to applicant's attention, that the guide wire that was being taught by McGuire was not actively pulling the cutter towards the knee, but rather was acting just

as a guide wire does, as a guide. The guide wire is 'used' to locate the cutter along an axis to facilitate pulling the cutter into the knee." (November 24, 2006 Advisory Action at 2). Applicants submit that, regardless of the motivation of either McGuire or Applicants, McGuire simply does not disclose, teach or suggest "pulling the cutter into the knee using a strand introduced through the cannulated guide pin and attached to the cutter, to secure the cutter to the distal end of the guide pin," as claim 1 recites. The guide wire disclosed generally in McGuire is not a strand that is used to pull the cutter into the knee, so that the cutter is later secured to the distal end of the guide pin.

Allowance of all pending claims is solicited.

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